

part been at various times politically a dependency of China. The valleys and plains of Manchuria are fertile and fairly well watered. Forests cover many of the mountains, and deposits of minerals, notably coal, and some gold tempt the miner. Rigorous winters and hot summers make the climate one of extremes. Agriculture prospers. Until late in the last century the land was sparsely settled, but for the two decades or so before the Japanese *coup d'etat* of 1931 Chinese were pouring in at the rate of hundreds of thousands a year. Koreans, seeking escape from the economic pressure in their native land, have been crossing the borders by the tens of thousands. Thousands of Japanese are to be found, principally as merchants, officials, and soldiers. While some regions in Manchuria now display familiar and distressing signs of overcrowding, large portions of it remain relatively undeveloped and constitute a land of opportunity.

LANDS TO THE SOUTH

To the south of China proper lie other lands, today not claimed by the Chinese but formerly from time to time politically subordinate to the Empire.

The valleys of the Irrawaddy and the Salween, streams which rise in the mountains and highlands in the southeastern portion of the Tibetan *massif* and flow southward into the Bay of Bengal, are politically known as Burma. Roads from Yunnan penetrate them, and, until the latter part of the nineteenth century, for many decades Burma made periodical gifts to Peking which the Chinese regarded as tribute. Siam, included principally in the valley of the Menam, is so separated from China by mountains that only infrequently and vaguely was it politically an ap-

pendage of the Middle Kingdom.

What we now call French Indo-China comprises several states, the northern ones of which have long oscillated between political independence of and subjection to China. The chief districts are Tongking (the heart of which is the delta and valley of the Red River, a stream which flows southeastward from the Yunnan table-land), Annam (the seacoast and mountains south of Tongking), Laos (the mountains and hills and the upper part of the valley of the Mekong to the west of Annam) and Cambodia and Cochin-China (on the fertile delta and lower portion of the